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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,226	07/28/2003	Jurgis Astrauskas	1007-0562	4748

7590 01/06/2009
Maginot, Moore & Beck LLP
Chase Tower, Suite 3250
111 Monument Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5109

EXAMINER

TRAN, DZUNG D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/06/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,226

Applicant(s)

ASTRAUSKAS, JURGIS

Examiner

Dzung D. Tran

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merkle et al. U.S. Patent no. 5,442,344 in view of Drummond et al. U.S. Publication no. 2008/0128589.

Regarding claims 1, 9 and 13, Merkle discloses in Figure 2, an apparatus for bi-directional optical communication with a device external to the probe, the probe comprising:

an optical transmitter for mounting in proximity to an external device, the optical transmitter generates light pulses in accordance with a data signal (Figure 3, col. 3, lines 28-47); and

an optical receiver for mounting in proximity to the external device, the optical receiver including a sensitive phototransistor for generating an electrical data signal from a visible light data signal impinging upon the optical receiver (Figure 3, col. 3, lines 28-47).

Merkle does not specifically disclose the optical transmitter including a high intensity light emitting diode (LED).

Drummond discloses in paragraph 0049 a high intensity light emitting diode that generates a high intensity pulse.

At the time of the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been obvious to replace the well known high intensity light emitting diode (LED) taught by Drummond with the LED D2 in the apparatus of Merkle. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do that in order to illuminate the super bright light which is more visible than a normal LED.

Regarding claims 2, 11 and 14, whether or not to set the high intensity LED generates light more intense than the light generated by an indicator light of an appliance is merely an engineering design choice. At the time of the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do that in order to meet the requirement of the apparatus.

Regarding claims 3, 10 and 15, wherein the high intensity LED generates light that is more intense than a standard LED is well known in the art.

Regarding claims 4, 12 and 16, Drummond discloses in paragraph 0049 the high intensity LED generates light at least 400 candelas/sq ft and Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art that a high intensity LED generates light in the range of approximately 8000 millicandelas to approximately 31,000 millicandelas (see Baker U.S. Patent no. 7,019,492).

Regarding claim 5, Examiner take an official notice that the optical receiver comprising: a sensitive phototransistor for generating the electrical data signal is well known in the art (see Lewis U.S. Patent no. 7,002,131).

Regarding claims 6, 8, 17 and 18, Merkle discloses the probe optical receiver for converting a light data signal from a light emitter 40. Thus, whether the probe optical receiver generates a collector photo current approximately 5 to 15 mA in response to a visible light pulse of 100 lx or the sensitive phototransistor is stimulated to generate current in response to light in the range of 10 to 30 lx is merely an engineering design choices.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merkle et al. U.S. Patent no. 5,442,344 in view of Miesak U.S. Patent no. 4,715,671.

Regarding claim 7, Merkle discloses in Figure 2, an apparatus for bi-directional optical communication with a device external to the probe, the probe comprising:

an optical transmitter for mounting in proximity to an external device, the optical transmitter generates light pulses in accordance with a data signal (Figure 3, col. 3, lines 28-47); and

an optical receiver for mounting in proximity to the external device, the optical receiver (i.e., photodiode) for generating an electrical data signal from a visible light data signal impinging upon the optical receiver (Figure 3, col. 3, lines 28-47). Merkle does not specifically disclose the optical receiver including a sensitive phototransistor. Miesak discloses in col. 2, lines 42-46 that the optical receiver is a sensitive photo-

transistor. At the time of the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been obvious to replace the well known phototransistor taught by Miesak with the photodiode in the apparatus of Merkle. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do that in order to receive the high intensity signal from the transmitter.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dzung D Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3025. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dzung Tran
01/02/2009

/Dzung D Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2613